

PATENT
IBM Docket No. CA9-2001-0066US1

REMARKS

Status:

Claims 1-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Further, Claims 1-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first and second paragraph as being unclear and incomplete. Claims 1 and 2 also stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the teaching of Crelier (U. S. Pat No. 6,151,703).

Claims 3-20, as amended, are presented for reconsideration in consideration of the following analysis. Claims 1 and 2 are canceled.

Analysis:

Claims 1 and 2 have been canceled , without prejudice, to focus the issues under consideration

Claims 3-20 have been amended to emphasize cooperation in a machine and/or their character as an article of manufacture.

For example, Claim 3 now clearly indicates the computer program product comprises a computer usable medium bearing computer code for use by a computer environment. This clarification is believed to overcome the rejection of non-statutory subject matter by placing the claim in the statutory categories of an article of manufacture or a machine.

Likewise, Claim 5 recites a computer usable medium bearing computer readable code, which would be an article of manufacture or machine.

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The machine of Claim 16 is indicated to operate on a computer system and is embodied as a computer usable medium having computer readable code. Again an article of manufacture or machine.

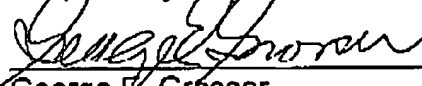
For Claim 20, the environment is now indicated to be running on a computer system and would be logic executing on hardware and thus a machine.

With the claims now being clearly identifiable with statutory categories the concerns giving rise to the indefiniteness rejection under 35 U. S. C. §112 are believed to be overcome.

The dependent Claims 4, 6-15 and 17-19 are now believed to be allowable for at least the same reasons as the independent Claims 3, 5, 16 and 20.

In accordance with the foregoing, it is believed this case has been placed in condition for allowance and early notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. Applicant's attorney would welcome a call from the Examiner, if necessary to advance this case to issue.

Respectfully Submitted,


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